

★ The Ardennes

★ The Rhineland

★ Central Europe

Geilenkirchen
Prummern
Lindern
Marche
Laroche
Houffalize
Baal
Wegberg
Dülken
Krefeld
Bielefeld
Hanover
Gartow



THE

Railsplitter

Published by and for
THE VETERANS of the



The Wurm
Ourthe
Roer
Rhine
Weser
Elbe

NO. 43

1 JANUARY 2007

SIOUX FALLS, SD

"It Will Be Different"



62nd Annual

RAILSPLITTER REUNION

August 24, 25, 26, 2007

Hilton Springfield

700 East Adams St.

Springfield, Illinois 62701

Reservations: 217-789-1530

Specify: "84th Infantry"

Deadline Date:

July 26, 2007

Parking Available
in Attached Garage

Room Rate:

\$95.00 + Tax

NOTE: This is a 3-Day Reunion

Friday, Saturday & Sunday

Contact:

Troy Mallory

2209 Jersey St.

Quincy, IL 62301

212-223-9062

Headquarters

P.O. Box 827

Sioux Falls, SD 57101

605-334-8787

E-mail: lila4605@aol.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Those of us who attended our 61st reunion at Nashville will long remember it! Who can forget the rousing reception we received at the commencement of an evening performance at the Grand Ol' Opry when our own Minnie Pearl (Tessa Swinehart), while she was on stage, asked us to stand so that she could introduce us to the audience of more than 4,000 people! Those cheers and applause I will never forget. The

reunion was a great success.

Our business meetings were productive; our treasury is in good shape and we are ready to look forward to our 62nd reunion in Springfield, IL.

In the meantime I would like to offer some important advice which involves preservation of our individual military records. Some Railsplitters may not realize that many of our military records are irreplaceable, so unless steps are taken to preserve those records, they will surely be lost. In order to avoid that situation therefore, I strongly recommend that you start by taking the "original" copy of your Honorable Discharge certificate to your county clerk to be copied and filed with the official county records, then take the "original" certificate to a local bank for storage in a safe deposit box; along with your decorations and awards.

Copies should be made of all important records and sent to family members. Finally, you should create your own military records by listing at least all the places where you served; important dates, and the units to which you belonged. It is sad to receive a communication from a Railsplitter's family inquiring about his military service when he left behind little or no information. So start immediately by creating, one day at a time, your own personal military history and when it is complete, send copies to the family. I intend to have more to say on this subject before the next reunion; but will close now by thanking our Past President, Joe Byrd, as well as the Swineharts, T.O. Hester, Forrest, Lila, and the many others who worked so hard to make the Nashville reunion such a great experience.

— John O'Malley, President

2006-2007 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

John O'Malley (A-333)
122 Tanglewood Dr.
Fredericksburg, TX 78624

VICE PRESIDENT

Sylvain Van Gobes (H-333)
6127 McCallum St.
Philadelphia, PA 19144

SECRETARY

Emmett Lang (H-334)
2123 Sunshine Ave.
Johnstown, PA 15905

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY-TREASURER

Forrest T. Lothrop (A-333)

ASST EXEC SEC-TREAS

Lila Day (Div HQ)

ASST EXEC SEC-TREAS

Fred Olson (K-333)

CHAPLAIN

Paul Howerter (M-333)

JUDGE ADVOCATE

Charles Hageman (A-334)

ASST JUDGE ADVOCATE

Joe Byrd (F-335)

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

W. W. "Jim" Aldrich (C-334)

HISTORIAN

Daryl Mitchell (A-335)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Bill Sofield (A-334)

Bob Johnston (SV-335)

Harry Komrowski (L-333)

Gene Pugh (A-333)

Harold Cline (335 FA)

Larry Blashaw (MP)

Troy Mallory (C-334)

Ray Koski (A-333)

Joe McManus (SV-335)

Joe Byrd (F-335)

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

There will be a NEW Reunion Headquarters this year. The 29-floor Hilton Springfield, located downtown overlooking the City of Springfield, is near the Illinois State Capitol Building and other historical sites.

This will be our first three-day reunion—Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Once again there will be a change in the schedule which will be published in the June 2007 *Railsplitter*. We suggest that you arrive on Thursday because the activities will start at 8:00 a.m. on Friday.

For the first time, the reunion is being handled by a multi-state group. They will be there to give you all the answers and help you with your needs.

Troy Mallory, Illinois – Chairman
Donald Erusha, Iowa
Donald Lee, Illinois
Daryl Mitchell, Missouri
Eugene Pugh, Iowa

GREETINGS FROM HEADQUARTERS

Another reunion is over. I want to thank T.O. Hester (G-333) and his daughter, Tessa, who worked with the hotel staffs, and her husband, Randy Swinehart, who did the computer work and handled the table assignments at registration. Remember that all work is by volunteers.

Also, I would like to thank Max Liebers and his daughter, Carol, for registration fees; my wife, Veva and Virginia Pugh for name tags; Larry and Nita Blashaw for sale of meal tickets, plus all others who helped in many ways.

The Gaylord is a beautiful place, but with 7 registration places a person didn't know where to find anything or anyone. Once I found the registration area I didn't explore much. Twenty years ago all of us would have been in better shape for this site. Some hotel staff informed some members when they came to check in that the Railsplitters were not there.

Looking ahead, you will find changes in reunion arrangements for 2007. There will be three official days starting Friday and running through Sunday. There will be a complete schedule in the June papers.

— Forrest Lothrop (A-333)

THE *Railsplitter* is published two times a year: January and June, by the 84th Infantry Division Railsplitter Society at 1100 S. Cliff, Sioux Falls, SD 57105

DISCLAIMER:

The opinions expressed by individuals in this or any publication of "THE RAILSPLITTER" in no way reflect the point of view of the Railsplitter Society or its Editorial Staff.



*Day is done, gone the sun
From the lake, from the hill,
From the sky.
All is well, safely rest, God is nigh.
Thanks and praise, for our days,
'Neath the sun, 'Neath the stars,
'Neath the sky.
As we go, this we know, God is nigh.*

GRANT ADAMS

Meridian, ID

F 334

Died: 7-2006

Survivors: UNK

PHILLIP ALEXANDER, JR

Lufkin, TX

K 335

Died: 1-2006

Survived by wife, Beatrice

KENNETH BARTON

Cornelius, OR

AT 334

Died: 7-2005

Survived by wife, Norma

GLENN BAUER

Brinkley, AR

M 333

Died: 7-2006

Survived by wife

LOWELL BEST

Palestine, OH

SV 335

Died: UNK RS returned by PO

Survivors UNK

C.M. BROWNING

Cordera, TN

K 333

Died: 11-2004

Survived by wife

DALE BROWNING

Decatur, AR

G 333

Died: 7-2006

Survived by wife, Ann

CHARLES CAHILL

Oklahoma City, OK

Signal

Died: 4-2005

Survived by sons

JACK CAREY

LOUISVILLE, KY

F 334

Died: 6-2006

Survived by children

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

You have to be very ambitious to pick strawberries. They don't offer themselves up easily. To pick strawberries you may have to wade through tall grass, some thorny bushes or poison ivy which can really get to your skin and you'll be scratching for weeks. In the summer when we were young we would go out with a small kettle and try to pick enough strawberries to make Jelly or have a snack of strawberries and milk. The problem was you would pick one, drop it in the kettle, pick another and eat it and repeat. It would take quite awhile to fill up that kettle, especially since they were wild strawberries. But oh, what berries they were. The jelly Mom made was great and you didn't mind the few scratches from the thorns and briars on the arms and legs. But the best was yet to come - a bowl of strawberries with milk and sugar was out of this world. What a wonderful, delicious snack this was, and worth all the sweat, scratches and toil there was to pick these little wild strawberries.

We look at our lives, and maybe can compare our years on earth to the chore of picking strawberries. We work, sweat and toil and endure many pains in our years of life here on earth. However, we do read in our Holy Book, that there will be a beautiful place in heaven, that we can enjoy the sweetness and bless-

ings, that we so long have labored for on earth. If you believe in our God as Lord and Savior, you will someday enjoy the goodness and blessings of heaven. If we think that the strawberries, milk and sugar were so good, you could say, "We ain't seen nothing yet". There is nothing to compare with the golden shores of heaven. May we all live a life that is pleasing to our God, and we will enjoy these wonderful blessings some sweet day.

There is a beautiful writing, which is also set to music, and tells of this homeland, that when this life is over, we look forward to seeing! It is titled "Finally Home"...

*Just think of stepping on shore
and finding it Heaven;*

*Of taking hold of a hand, and
finding it God's hand;*

*Of breathing a new air, and
finding it celestial air;*

*Of waking up in Glory, and
finding it home.*

Now if you read this, and are a liberal or conservative in your form of worship, please let me go a bit wild to these heavenly homeland thoughts, and say a big old-fashioned "Glory, Hallelujah, Amen." It will get better, as the best is yet to come. "Finally Home."

— Paul Howerter

WILLIAM CHILDRESS

Powell, TN

I 334

Died: 5-2006

Survived by granddaughter

FRANK CORBIN

Kannapolis, NC

A 333

Died: 4-2006

Survived by wife, Marlean

CLETUS CRAWFORD

Newhall, CA

A 334

Died: 12-2005

Survived by wife, Soazig

THEODORE EPPSTEIN

Cincinnati, OH

A 334

Died: 7-2006

Survived by sons

NELSON FACKLER

Ellicott City, MD

Died: 7-2006

Survived by children

DALLAS FOREMAN

Washington, NC

G 333

Died: 3-2006

Survived by wife, Alia Rae

GAGLAIRDI, PHILLIP

Yucca Valley, CA

G 333

Died: 4-2006

Survived by wife, Mary

RAYMOND GENOVESE

Manistee, MI

A 333

Died: 3-2006

Survived by brother

(Continued on page 4)

**(Continued)**

HARRY GOLDMAN
Lafayette Hills, PA
MED 335
Died: 1-2006
Survived by wife, Beatrice

JACK K. GRAVES
Okanogan, WA
A 333
Died: 3-2006
Survived by wife, Orvilla

WILLIAM P HALLIDAY
Memphis, TN
CN 335
Died: 11-2006
Survived by wife, Dorothy

RITCHIE HANEY
Damascus, MD
HQ 2-335
Died: 3-2006
Survived by wife, Louise

DALE HARMS
Plattsmouth, NE
G 333
Died: 9-2005
Survived by wife, Anna Jane

DAVID HECHT
Summer field, FL
K 335
Died: 6-2006
Survived by wife, Jackie

BARLEY HENSLEY
Derby, KS
H 333
Died: 2-22006
Survived by: children

HAROLD HOFF
Kissimmee, FL
C 334
Died: 5-2002
Survived by grandchildren

OLAN HOSKINS
Harlan, KY
C326FA
Died: 4-2006
Survived by daughter

JESSE HUFFMAN
New Castle, VA
K 334
Died: 10-2006
Survivors: none

WILLIAM HULIHAN
SILER SPRINGS, MD
C 333
Died: 9-2006
Survived by wife, Evelyn

RALPH LEATHERBY
Rancho Mirage, CA
AT 334
Died: 2000
Survived by wife, Eleanor

JOSEPH MEISER
Lexington, KY
K 334
Died: 6-2005
Survived by children

BALTAZAR MERINO
Prairie Village, KS
A 334
Died: 10-2005
Survived by wife, Aurora

GENTRY MILES
Huntsville, AL
F 333
Died: 1-2006
Survived by wife, Clara

RONALD NONNEMACHER
Bloomington, IL
Died: 4-2006
Survived by children

JESSIE ORTIZ
Fresno, CA
A 309ENG
Died: 1-2006
Survived by wife, Elena

JOSEPH PANE
Bethel, CT
L 333
Died: 2-2006
Survived by sons

EDWIN PARRETT
Leavenworth, KS
A 335
Died: 5-2006
Survived by wife, Martha

DON POORMAN
Woodburn, OR
I 334
Died: UNK
Survived by wife

JESSE PRICE
Lakewood, CA
K 334
Died: 2-2006
Survived by children

JOHN RACKLEY
Morganton, GA
M 334
Died: 11-2004
Survived by wife, Nancy

KENNETH RAY
Zionsville, IN
HQ 333
Died: 3-2006
Survived by sons

PAUL RUPP
READING, PA
B 335
Died: 9-2006
Survived by wife, Rolande

DONALD SANDERS
Cochocton, OH
Div HQ
Died: UNK
Survived by children

FRANCIS SEIBERT
Philadelphia, PA
A 333
Died: 3-2006
Survived by daughter

JEROME SLAVIN
Delray Beach, FL
CN 335
Died: 7-2005
Survived by wife, Margery

JAY THORNTON
Kearney, NE
H 333
Died: 1-2006
Survived by wife, Dorie

PHILIP THURRELL
Valley View, PA
E 333
Died: UNK
Survived by daughters

PETER VAN ALSTYNE
Wilton, KS
K 333
Died: 10-2005
Survived by wife, Carol

GEORGE WADE
Burtonsville, MD
A 334
Died: 8-2006
Survived by wife, Carolyn

LELAND WELLER
Little River, SC
A 335
Died: 3-2006
Survived by wife, Dolores

(Continued on next page)



VERNAL WILKINSON

LaMesa, CA

C 327FA

Died: 11-2006

Survived by wife, Belva

WILLIAM G. WILLIAMS

Marshfield/ MO

HQ 1-334

Died: 9-11-2006

Survived by wife/ Rena

HENRY ZOCH

Giddings, TX

F 333

Died: 1-2005

Survived by wife, Emily

In Memoriam

CELIA ALMAGUER

San Antonio TX

Died: 2006

Survived by husband, Esequiel
(HQ327FA)

JUNE HOFFMAN

N. Plainfield, NJ

Died: UNK

Widow of George-dec (C-335)

BETTY MARTIN

Garden Valley, ID

Died: 6-2006

Widow of George-dec (QM)

Friend of Bob King (CN 334)

EILEEN MULLIGAN

Canal Winchester, OH

Died: 7-2006

Survived by daughter

JEFFREY NOEL

Boalsburg, PA

Died: 10-206

Survived by father. Chuck Noel (D-333)

CLARICE PECK

Streator, IL

Died: 8-2006

Survived by husband: Floyd(MP)

ALICE SANDERS

Cochocton, OH

Died: UNK

Widow of Donald-dec (DIV HQ)

HILDA SEELEY

Walden, NY

Died: 6-2006

Survived by Michael (C-335)

Frank H. Corbin, my husband of 59 years, died April 22,2006. He was a member of Company A-333 of the 84th Infantry Division.

He was proud to be a member of the Railsplitters and enjoyed reading each issue of the magazine. It was a joy to him to keep in touch with his many friends of the Railsplitters by ham radio, visits and especially attending the yearly reunions. I was always able to go to the reunions with him and we had wonderful times at each meeting.

We have a son, Frank Corbin II and wife, Carol, a granddaughter, Erin Henkley and husband, Brad, and a great-grandson, Corbin Henkley.

Many thanks to you for your years of friendship and the fond memories afforded us.

— Marlean Corbin

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

I am sorry to tell you that my dear wife and mother of Michele, Anne, passed away on April 26,2006 after a courageous struggle with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease). A Memorial Meeting for Worship was held on May 20.

— Sylvain VanGobes

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

My wife of over 54 years, Marie Holt, died January 12,2006. You might recall a 1996 *Washington Post* story about us, which you reran in the *Railsplitter* newsletter a few years later.

We met in early December 1944 in Heerlen, shortly after this portion of Holland had been liberated. On January 11,1945 I was wounded at Samree, Belgium during the battle of

IDA SOMERS

Bear Lake, MI

Died: 9-2003

Survived by husband, Arden
(A638TD)

ANNE VAN GOBES

Philadelphia, PA

Died: 4-2006

Survived by husband, Sylvain (H 333)

DOTTIE WATT

Toledo, OH

Died: 4-2006

Survived by husband, Don (L333)

the Bulge. We wrote to each other for seven years and were married in Heerlen on July 4, 1951.

She is buried at Arlington Cemetery, not far from where my parents are buried, section 46 near the mast of the Maine.

— Richard Holt (E335)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

My father, Ritchie Lee Haney, who served in WWII in the 84th Infantry Division, went to be with the Lord on March 4, 2006, after a long illness. He lived in Damascus, MD all his life and worked in the Data Processing Division of Montgomery County Government for 27 years. After retirement in 1974, he worked various part-time jobs until he and his wife purchased and operated Lorieellis Florist in Urbana, MD. After selling the florist he became very active in church activities. He enjoyed researching family history and they worked as volunteers in the Country Store in Lorient, Mt Airy. He was the scorekeeper for the Clarksburg United Methodist Church softball team on which his grandson played. He was very active in the Damascus Community Fair and became well known for the many "Damascus History" calendars he developed for them. He is survived by his wife, Louise, one daughter and son-in-law, two grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Being in the Railsplitters was something Dad was very proud of. He will be greatly missed by us all.

— Terry Hamilton

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

This is to inform you that Dallas G. Foreman, Sr., lost his battle with cancer on March 20, 2006. Dallas and I were married almost 62 years. During that time he never forgot his military service and the men he served with. He served in G-333. Dallas loved his God and his country and was proud of his service time.

We attended numerous reunions and our children attended several with us. Dallas enjoyed and looked forward to those reunions. To his many friends, the family would like to express their thanks for the cards, calls, prayers and concerns.

— Mrs Dallas Foreman

(In Memory)—Continued on page 6)

In Memory

(Continued from page 5)

I regret having to inform you that my father, Kenneth Ray, passed away on March 24, 2006 at age 94. Captain Ray was the Communications Officer in the Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 333 Infantry Regiment.

Dad always spoke most favorably of the men he served with during World War II. He communicated regularly with several of them. He and my Mother greatly enjoyed the reunions they were able to attend until their health began to decline in the last few years. He had been looking forward to attending the Indianapolis reunion in 2004 but fell and broke his leg the month prior to the gathering.

Another fine "citizen soldier" has passed on to a better place where he can reunite with his wife, Pauline.

— (Signed) James K Ray

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

This is to inform you that my husband of 57 years passed away on March 25, 2006. He was Cpl Leiland V. Weller. He was 81 years young. He proudly served his country in the Ardennes-Central Europe and Rhineland. Lee spent 38 years as a teacher and touched many lives. He was a great husband and father to three sons. He was very proud to be a part of the 84th Division in service to his country.

— Dolores Weller

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

This is to inform you that my beloved father, Baltazar F. Merino (A 334) passed away on October 29, 2005. He leaves his wife of 58 years, four sons, three daughters, 20 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

He was born January 6, 1925 in Kansas City, MO. He was an Army veteran of WWII, was wounded in Germany and received the Purple Heart. He returned from the war and joined the Kansas City, MO Fire Dept. where he worked for 35 and one-half years before retiring in 1981

as Battalion Chief of Battalion 107. He was the first Hispanic Battalion Chief for the Fire Department.

He was a 49-year member of Redemptorist Church, the American Legion and VFW and the Pan American Golf Assoc. — Marie L Ramirez

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

I just wanted to send a note to all of you to let you know what a pleasure it has been to know all of you. My Dad, Francis Seibert, passed away March 28 of this year.

I will miss him forever. The one thing he had left to look forward to were his reunions. It was the highlight of his year and I was privileged to be able to go with him. We have enjoyed each and every one we attended. Take care and God bless.

— Linda and Charles Murphy.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

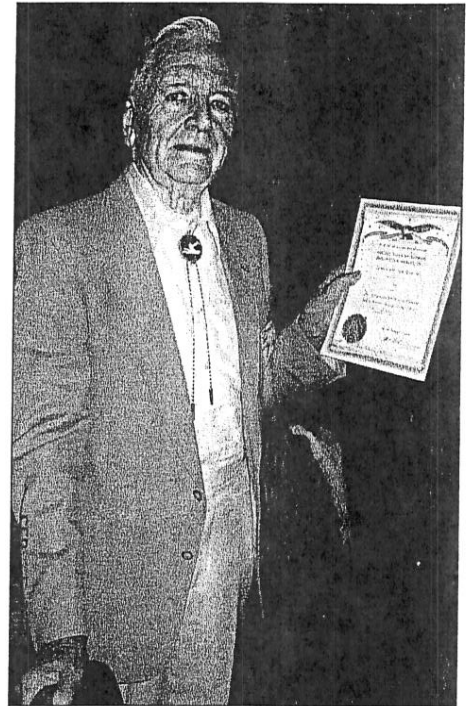
Our father, Dr. Joseph Meiser, Jr., passed away June 22, 2005. He was a proud member of "The Railsplitters" K-334. Following enlistment in the Army during WWII he saw combat duty with the US 9th Army in Europe. Following graduation from Penn State, he married our mother, Sarah, who passed in 2002. Our parents enjoyed so many things in their 52 years together. They traveled to Europe for the 50th Anniversary of D-Day and our father even made the trip for the 60th one. One of the last places he wanted to visit was the WWII memorial in Washington DC. That was a very touching trip. After Dad passed we found all the letters he had written to his mother during his service both state side and overseas. What a wonderful gift they were to read. Even though a year has passed since he left us, we still feel he is just on one of his trips around the country.

His children, JoAnn Meiser Deans and John A. Meiser

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

I want to thank you all for the prayers, cards, phone calls and e-mails at the time of George's (A-334) death. It really helped me to get through this very difficult time. I missed seeing you all at the reunion and do hope you had a good time. God bless you for your thoughtfulness

— Carolyn Wade



Bolling Cross

Receiving the bolling Cross award was truly a surprise to me and I want to thank the Society and all its members for this coveted honor. Bobby and I attended the 1946 reunion in Denver, CO, and have tried to attend as many reunions since as conditions would allow. All of the reunions have been great and wonderful, allowing us to see and talk to our old foxhole buddies. The Society has made these meetings possible and they should be acknowledged for a wonderful job!!

— Hank Oltmanns

NOTICE

We have received several requests for the book, "The 84th Infantry Division Book." Members have lost them for various reasons, anywhere from theft to burning. If you know of someone who has this book and no longer wants it please let Headquarters know.

For those of you who have requested in the past please send your name in again. We are only interested in hearing from veteran members who no longer have the original book. Don't request a second book for other family members and/or if you are an Associate member. Are you willing to spend money on repairing a book?

We cannot make any promises but will do our best. Please e-mail, phone or write National Headquarters.

DEADLINE

for the June 2007 issue of

"The Railsplitter"

is May 1, 2007

61st Reunion Attendance

Information as recorded on registration cards completed by those attending.

MP: Larry & Nita, Pamela, Nancy Blashaw, Teresa Kato (CA), Max, Carol Liebers (NM)

325 FA: Harold Cline, Barbara Osteen, Beverly Exware (NC), Albert Klimas (NY), Donald Lee, Kristie Gardiner (IL) Wayne & Mary Jane Winsett (OK)

327 FA: Bob & Yvonne Polich (CA)

309 MED: Norman & Shirley, Norman Jr, Mary, Rusty, Gail Sellers, Suzette & Pat Edmondson (LA)

SV 333: William & Louise Goff, Kathy Goff Walker (KY)

AT 333: Lloyd Garner (FL)

HQ 333: Joyce Cook, Jewel Shell, Vicki & Robert Swenson (GA), William & Mary Jean Crawford (TN)

A 333: Kenneth Ayers (FL) Raymond & Florence Koski (MN), Forrest & Veva Lothrop, Beth & Bruce Roemmelt (SD), John & Grace O'Malley (TX), Gene & Virginia Pugh (IA), William & Maxine Stafford (OH)

B 333: Brownlee Bush & Marie McDonald, Brad & Vicky Reiff, Tim & Mary Meyer (OR)

C 333: Ruth DeSando (CA)

D 333: William & Eva Almeida, Joy & Harry Dorsey (RI), C Joe Kerr (MI)

HQ 2-333: Roy & Margarette Ogle (SC)

E 333: Richard Bell (FL), Clarence Hackett, Deborah & Dennis McCullough (WV), Frank & Lois Marshall (RI) Thomas Rafferty (PA), Gus Schmidt (CA), Gene Solfelt (MN)

F 333: Lester & Kathy Norwood (TX)

G 333: Wayne, Carolyn, Julia Fel-

ton (NC), T.O., Ricke Hester, Tessa & Randy Swinehart (TN) John & Janet Kinney (NJ), John & Billie Meyer, Margaret Hennigan (NH), Bill & Audrey Rosa (IN), Wilbur, James Spindler (OH)

H 333: Scottie & Ruth Ooton (IL), Coy & Doris Finger (TN)

HQ 3-333: Charles & Dorothy Harvey (CA)

I 333: Marvin Kersting, Deborah Cook (MI)

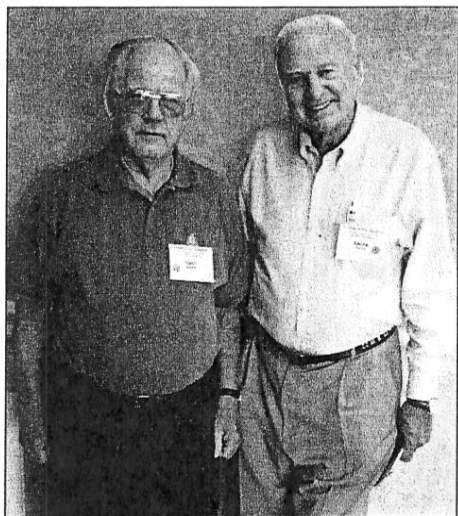
K 333: Woodrow & Lucille Bettis, Barbara Adams, Becky Harris (AR), George Gaebler (CA), Wiley Herrell (TN), Susan Keller, Jackie & Lee Roberts, Randy, Kim, Katie & Jack Keller (IN), Mick Keller (IN), Dean & Delores Keyser (MI), Bruce & Norma, Amy Morrell (CO), Douglas Noehring, Dottie Place (FL), Dale & Arlene Robinson, (MI), Edward Stewart (MD)



Paul & Frieda Howerter



President-elect, John O'Malley, left, and Past President, Joe Byrd.



Blue Dotters Tandy Brannon and Chuck Kroger.

L 333: Howard & Evelyn Blagg (OK), John & Carolyn Guerry (TN) Harry & Agnes, Harry R & Corlen Komrowski (NY), Vincent, Ken, Vin, Chris, Tiffany LoGiudice (NY), Chuck McCulla, Cindy & Jim Snipes (OH), Dan & Beth McCullen (MS), Hank & Bobby, Randy Oltmans, Jimmy & Donie Schmidt (NM), Carl Schmadeke, Evelyn Jasnoch, Caria, & Steve Pentkowski (OR). Don Watt (OH), Kenneth & Iler Zander, Bill & Patty, Micki, Zach (OR)

M 333: Glenn & Beverly Harris (CA), Paul & Frieda Howerter (PA)

SV 334: C.H. & Chuck Shook, Evan & Cameron Hambrigh (SC)

CN 334: Arthur Lonto Harold Golk (NY), Robert King (ID)

A 334: Tandy & Phyllis Brannon (TN), Stanley & Barbara Chiras (FL), Soazig Crawford, Veronique Ashby, Marie Arriaga (CA), Earl & Ruth,

(Continued on next page)



Company I-335 and families

Rail Attendance

(Continued from page 8)

Doug Evans, Robin Keller, Mike Pietromco (CA), Chuck Hageman (KS), Richard & Eleanore Hawkins (IL) Norman & Eileen Muehlenhard (OH), William & Eleanor Sofield (NJ)

B 334: William & Helen Bell (GA), Horace & Marguerite Bishop (IL), Cecil, Steve Brown (TN), Richard Hussey, Sharon McPhee (ME), Alvin & Harriet Sandier (FL)

C 334: Jim & Barbara Aldrich (TX), Joe Butler, Beth Wilkes (NC) Troy Mallory (IL) Paul & Winona Richardson, Linda Kabbani (IA), Martha Jo Long, Mildred Mayton (TN)

D 334: Charles & Betty Conn (OH), Donald & Rita Erusha (IA)

HQ 2-334: Art Mahler (WA) Baker Mitchell (NC)

E 334: Gene Wayne (MI)

F 334: Calvin Bean (NC)

G 334: Richard & Mary Todd (IL)

H 334: Brick & Judy Bradford (AR), Russell & Betty Brubacker (IN), Emmett & Emmett Jr. Lang (PA)

HQ 3-334: Carl & Lorena Broadwater (OH), Richard & Juanita Jamieson (OH)

I 334: Sam & Dianne MacDonald (CO)

K 334: Bill & Geraldine Ingram (CO), James & Dorthy Smith, Les & Jennifer Lowe (OH), Oliver & Nell O'Kier (IL)

M 334: Fred Nungesser (NJ)

HQ 1-335: William Rippey & Ruby Moore (MD)

SV 335: Bob & Althea Johnston (IL), Joseph & Lillian McManus (NY)

CN 335: Bill, Dot, Grace & Allen Halliday (TN), Dade & Betty Manning, Weldon & Judy Powers (TX) Bob & Martha Paterson (NC), Dan Scanlon, Eileen, Megan, Katelyn Hartford, Andy Rzaca, Brenda Scanlon (IL)

A 335: Daryl Mitchell, Regina Graves, Muerita Scrivner, Carmen Robinson, Myra Massey, Lora Lauderback (MO)

C 335: Paul & Jo Gibbs (NC), Chuck Kroger (NC), William & Doric Wood (TX)

D 335: Charles & Carrie Belle Herd (KY), Pat Bettis Ward, James Ward, Mike & Tom Fomer (AR)

HQ 2-335: Jerry & Jennie Marie Smith (SC)

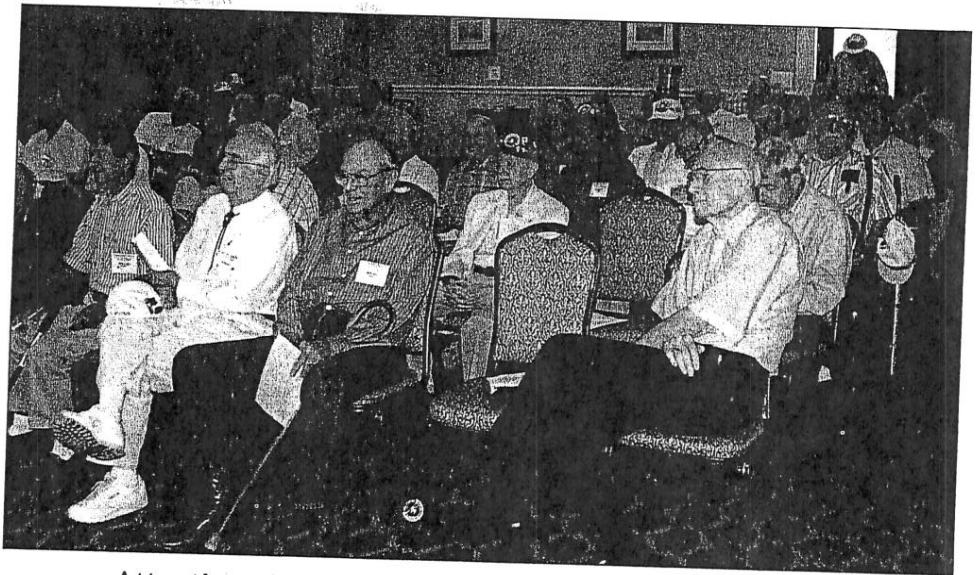
E 335: Donald & Maryann Edwards (FL)

F 335: Joe & Gleta Byrd (NC)

G 335: Robert Carpenter, Barbara Frazier (NC), Ralph Charnley (RI), John & Jewel Hamrich, W. T. &



Posting the Colors - 100th Division Institutional Training, Knoxville, TN.



Attention given to President at the business meeting.

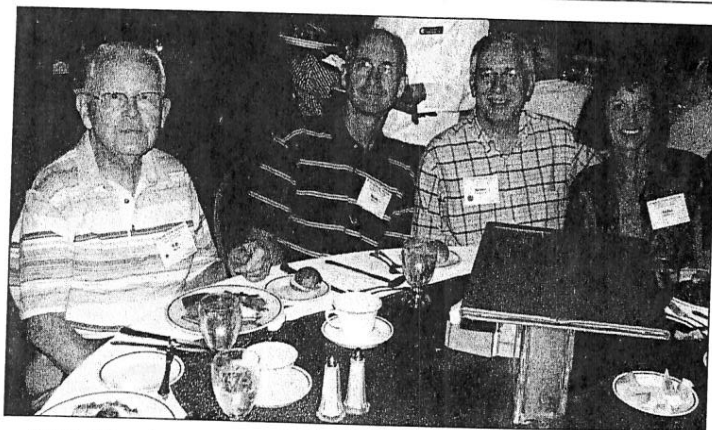
Frances Scruggs (SC), Tommy & Betty Thomason (GA) Bill Tyra (AR)

I 335: Leroy & Mary Alice, Lee, Rene, Amanda, Patrick, Dean, Cheryl, Austin, Martin Brown (SC), Buford & Emily, John Guyer, Tony & Joy Jones, Carol & Anne Orazio, Jane Mahieu (MO), Edward & Elsie Herzog (NY), Ed & Bonnie Lewis. Paula & David Nixon, Caria & Mike Seiler (TX), Charles & Lillian Menige (DE), Roy & Mary Elise Stewart (AL) Jeremy Sherfey (MD)

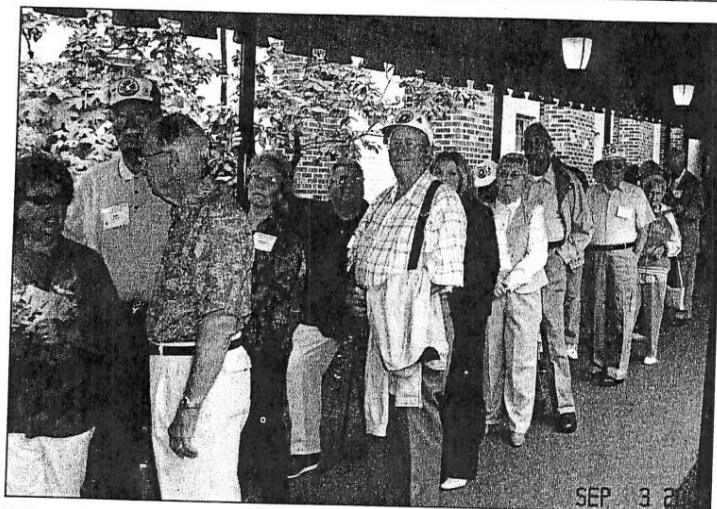
K 335: Joan Althaus (MO), Carl & Donna Armor (MI), Allan & Joan Howerton (VA), Robert & Frances Kitchen (SC), Leo & Elda Pedroza, Charles & Norma Hubbart (CA)



Kyle Ellegood, Bugler, at the Memorial Service.



T.O. Hester and family on the General Jackson.



Lined up to board the bus to the cruise ship, General Jackson.



Brownlee Bush with Mas Liebeers and daughter, Carol.



Note taking before the Ladies' Brunch.



Banquet



Chow time - Joe Butler, Paul Richardson & Jim Aldrich.



Ladies relaxing in Hernando's Hideaway.



Hawk Hawkins, Stan Chiras, Bob King and Bill Sofield.

Reunion Hilites

Minutes of First Business Meeting

Nashville, Tennessee

Scottie Ooten reported on a block placed at the Illinois Veterans Memorial in Springfield, IL to commemorate the role of the 84th Division in WWII. The cost of the block, \$5,000.00, was raised by contributions from the members. No Society money was used. Actually, the cost was over-subscribed and the balance given to National Headquarters treasury.

A motion was approved to elect Charles Hageman as Judge Advocate and Joe Byrd as Asst. Judge Advocate. These changes were necessary due to the death of Clarence Rhea.

Troy Mallory reported on the 2007 reunion which will be held at the Hilton Hotel in Springfield, IL on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, August 24, 25 and 26, 2007. A committee composed of Troy Mallory, Don Lee, Don Erusha, Gene Pugh and Daryl Mitchell met in Springfield to make arrangements.

President Byrd reported on a resolution enacted by the Executive Board to create a citation called HONORARY RAILSPLITTER FOR LIFE. This is to recognize members who have made significant contributions (not monetary) to the Society and have not received appropriate awards—possibly by not being eligible for such as the Railsplitter of the Year award. Forrest Lothrop received

the first certificate. A committee was formed consisting of Charles Hageman, Bob Johnston and Bill Sofield to recommend future recipients of the award.

President Byrd spoke about indigent Society members who are no longer able to afford their dues. If it is known who these people are their dues will be paid from a fund created by member contributions.

Forrest asked that address changes, etc., be reported to Headquarters.

Attendance at the meeting was 46.

Minutes of Second Business Meeting

Motion was approved to change the mailing dates of the "Railsplitter" to January 1 and July 1.

Motion was approved to eliminate the first business meeting at future reunions and have the Executive Board select the committee members that were formerly picked at the first meeting.

The following officers were elected for the coming year. President: John O'Malley; Vice President: Sylvain VanGobes; and Secretary: Emmett Lang.

Executive Committee, 3-year terms: Ray Koski, Troy Mallory and Joe McManus. 2-year term: Larry Blashaw.

Charles Conn withdrew his proposal of Raleigh, NC as a site for the 2009 reunion. The site will remain open until next year.

Forrest reported that during the past year 9 new annual members (6

REUNION STATISTICS

Statistics as compiled from the registration cards completed by those in attendance at Nashville.

TOTAL ATTENDANCE	332
Voting Members	120
Widows	6
Associate Members	4
Others	202

Of the 120 Railsplitters registered	
Life Members	90
Annual	30
Past Presidents	16
Blue Dotters	4

L-333 had 10 for the most voting RS followed by K-333 with 8, H-334 with 7 and A-333 and 1-335 with 6 each.

37 STATES REGISTERED

California had 10 family units totaling 26

North Carolina had 10 family units totaling 19

For more statistics go to Reunion Attendance and count.

Railsplitters and 3 Associates) and 6 new Life Members (5 Railsplitters and 1 Associate). Taps were sounded for 87 members during the year.

Motion by Solfelt, second by Lee, approval was given for a 84th Division Website.

— Bob Johnston, Secretary Pro Tern

AWARDS

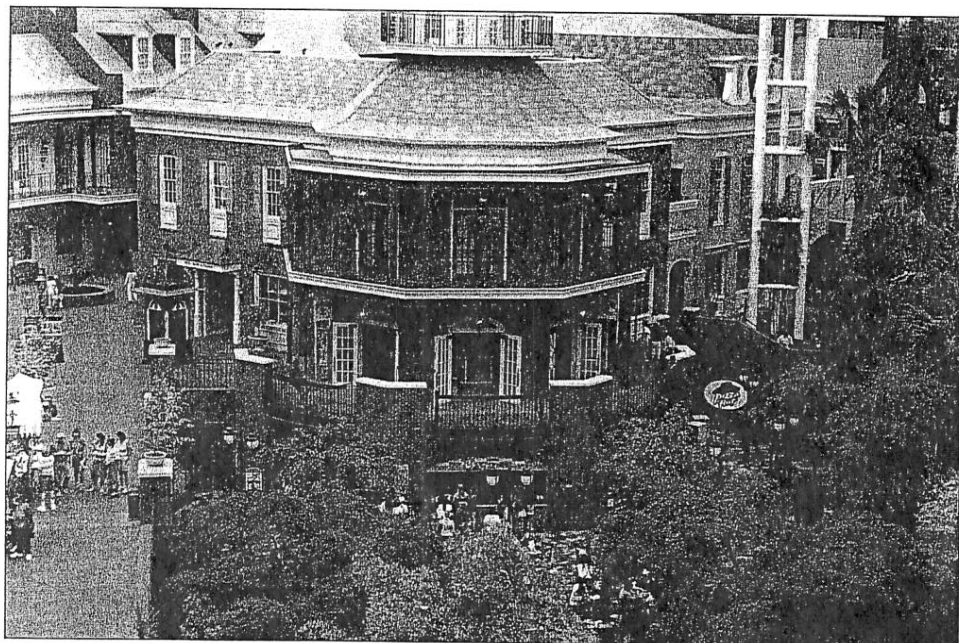
Railsplitter for Life:
Forrest Lothrop

Railsplitter of the Year:
Scottie Ooton

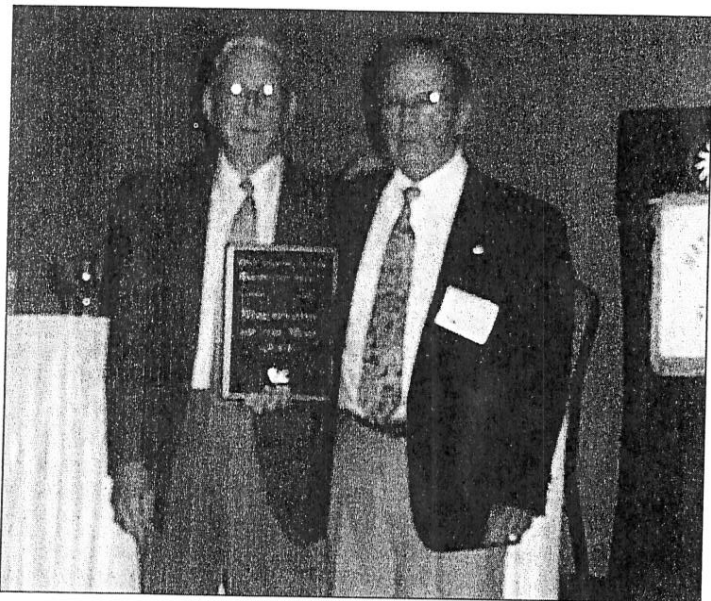
Bolling Cross:
Henry Oltmans
George Wade (posthumously)

Order of the Eagle:

Jim Aldrich	Edward Lewis
Keny Ayers	Max Liebers
Harold Cline	Arhtur Lonto
Charles Hageman	Troy Mallory
William Halliday	Daryl Mitchell
Carl Hansen	John O'Malley
Harry Komrowski	Scottie Ooton
Emmett Lang	William Sofield
Don Lee	Bill Tyra



Gaylord Opryland Resort



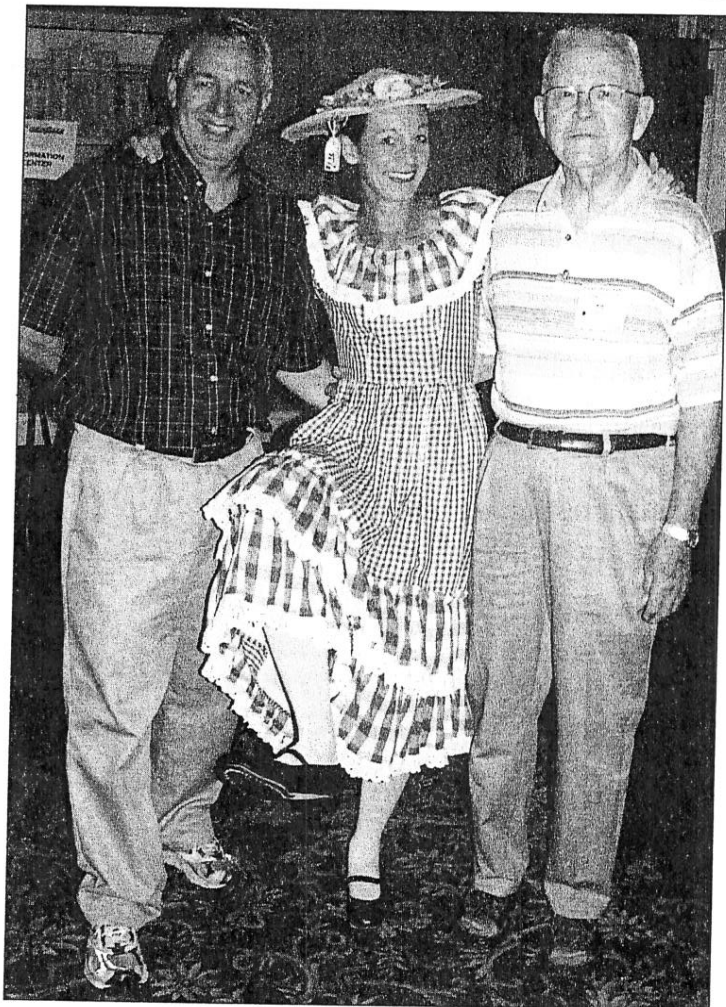
RAILSPLITTER OF THE YEAR, Scottie Ooton, right, with Railsplitter for Life, Forrest Lothrop.



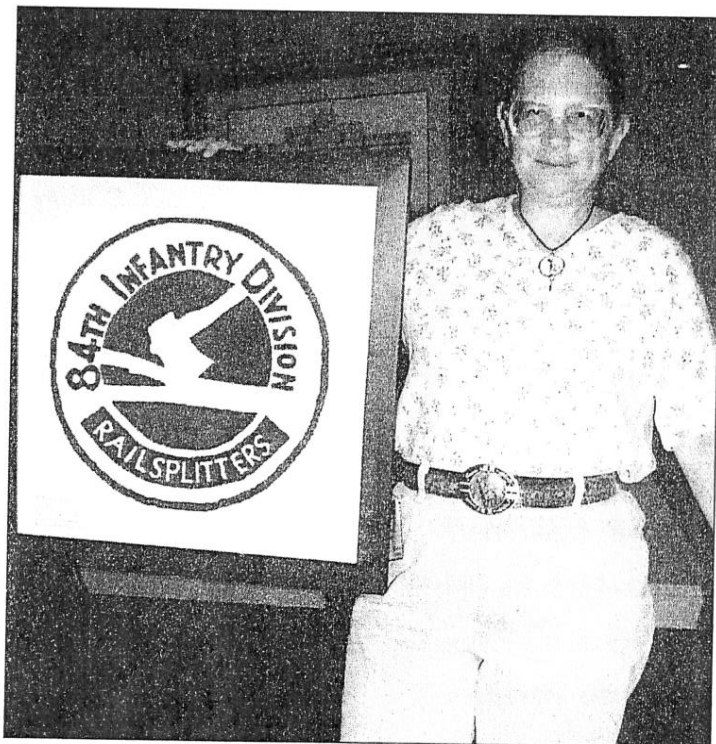
ORDER OF THE EAGLE recipients Ken Ayers and Daryle Mitchell.



Don Lee, Troy Mallory & Don Erusha



Randy & Tessa Swinehart (Minnie Pearl) and T.O. Hester.



Kathy Goff-Walker, daughter of Wm. (SV-333) and Louise Goff, with the cross-stitch she donated to the Railsplitters.

Statement of Unrestricted Revenues, Expenses and Other Changes in Unrestricted Net Assets for Year Ended June 30, 2006

Receipts

Life Member Dues	\$ 360.00
Annual Dues	9,382.00
Investment Income	2,260.00
Reunion: Receipts	\$11,710.00
Expenses	(10,381.00)
Net	1,329.00
Miscellaneous Income	27.00
Merchandise Sales	1,246.00
Donations	6,705.00

TOTAL RECEIPTS \$21,309.00

Expenses

Bank Fees	48.00
Depreciation	930.00
Insurance	236.00
Merchandise	1,104.00
Office Expense	1,389.00
Professional Fees	1,061.00
Postage	1,122.00
Printing	3,333.00
Rent	3,720.00
Telephone	993.00
Travel	879.00

TOTAL EXPENSES \$14,815.00

Excess Support Over Expenses \$6,494.00

Fund Balance – Beginning \$104,930.00

Fund Balance – Ending \$111,424.00

Railsplitter Featured in New Book on G.I. Bill

Allan Howerton (K-335) is one of twelve World War II veterans profiled in "OVER HERE: How the G.I. Bill Transformed the American Dream" by Pulitzer Prize winning author Edward Humes. The book explores what Humes calls the largely "accidental consequences" of one of the most successful government programs in history which made college possible for millions who could not otherwise have afforded it.

Howerton's story opens the book and is interspersed throughout it as a kind of anchor for the other stories which illustrate the variety of veterans who used the program to launch successful careers in many different fields. Humes based Howerton's portion on his Railsplitter memoir, "Dear Captain, et al.," and his postwar readjustment story, "War's Wake," plus interviews and e-mail exchanges.

"Over Here" has received excellent press notices. The *Denver Post* called the book "poignant—the human dramas scattered throughout the narrative are irresistible." The *Los Angeles Times* said "Humes' rich tapestry captures the complexity and contradictions of American society in the midst of dramatic change."



Statement of Compilation Report

	EQUIPMENT FUNDS	LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND	OPERATING FUND	TOTAL FUNDS
ASSETS:				
Cash (incl. Money Market Funds and Certificates of Deposit)		\$100,085.00	\$3,013.00	\$103,098.00
Investments (bond)			0.00	0.00
Furniture & Equipment	\$5,630.00			5,630.00
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(\$2,789.00)			(2,789.00)
Prepaid Reunion Expense			5,000.00	5,000.00
Merchandise Inventory			485.00	485.00
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$2,841.00	\$100,085.00	\$8,498.00	\$111,424.00

CHAPTER REPORTS

OREGON CHAPTER

Carl Schmadeke

Thirteen members and spouses attended the 25th Annual Reunion of the Oregon Chapter on May 2-4, 2006, at Surfsand Resort at Cannon Beach, Oregon. Attending from Oregon were: Adolph Hamisch, Bob & Dorothy Mann, Forrest & Mary Phyl Platt, Earl and Pat Rossler, Carl Schmadeke & Evelyn Jasnoch. From Washington: Wesley & Vi Newby; and from California: Les and Elda Pedroza. This was the first reunion for the Pedrozas.

Ed Sinclair wrote that he had a broken arm and a bad leg. Brownlee Bush and Marie who hosted this reunion the past six years at Cannon Beach couldn't come because Marie

fell and broke her hip on April 15. The reunion was not the same without them. Hamisch, age 95, was the oldest one present. He drove to the reunion in one day from Roseburg, about 250 miles.

Seafood was ordered from the menu at the banquet on May 3. Everyone brought and received a door prize by drawing numbers. The grand prize was a "yard bird" made by Newby. Pedroza was the winner of the 2006 bird. Newby has presented a yard bird at every reunion since 1999. The two-foot bird is made of iron that is very cleverly welded together from parts of a garden rake, spade, mower sickle, washers, bicycle and reinforcement iron. Only those who had not previously won a yard bird took part in this drawing.

The small group reminisced of the past and walked on the beach. The weather was great. The next reunion will be at the same place (Surfsand Resort, Cannon Beach, OR), and date is May 2-4, 2007.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

ILLINOIS-WISCONSIN CHAPTER

Don Lee

The attendance was down from last year in spite of the good weather we had. We again went to Minier, Ill., for their famous chicken dinner. Because of the date, we had a problem getting into the Red Barn Theater that we generally attend.

Those attending were Robert Warnock (334 MED), Robert & Althea Johnston (SV 335), Richard and Mary Todd (G-334), Harold Born (H-334), and Don Lee (HQ 325FA). We plan to have it in the middle of May again next year.

We heard from Robert Huss (SV 335): says his eyes are not what they were but is still busy with his family.

Howard Hawkins (909 FA) is putting up a battle with cancer and is now on oxygen 24 hours a day.

Forian Wind (E-334) is still struggling with blindness and waiting for his strength to return.

Floyd Peck (D1V MP): His wife, Candice, is having lung problems and is on oxygen.

Joe Penciak (B-309 ENG): Reunion conflicted with doctor appointments.

Don and Betty Boylan (CN-334): Betty had a slight stroke and they are moving to Georgia to be near one of their daughters.

Julian Patzer: Unable to attend as he has a blood clot in his leg.

Oliver O'Kier was unable to attend as Nellie has good and bad days

Did not hear from Horace Bishop (B-334), a blue-dotter.

This is a reflection of our age. We will keep all of you in our prayers. We all have our little problems, some more than others. We hope that many of you attend T.O. Hester's great reunion in Nashville, the Good Lord willing.



Margraten Memorial Service

Millie Frazer, wife of Bill Frazer (F333), lays a wreath at Margraten Memorial Service on Memorial Day, May 28, 2006.

CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL

If your label does not read
05 or later
this is your last "Railsplitter"

Locator *Where Are They Now?*

Sometime ago I asked if you could help me find information about my Dad, "Jake" Donovan. The response was just wonderful and I heard from quite a few people all over the country.

Just recently, I finally got the address for Martha Osvat, who was a speaker at one of the reunions where Dad admitted to opening the gate for the liberation for one of the camps. I have written to her and hope to hear back soon.

Let me know if you hear of anyone with more information about my Dad. Did I tell you I have movies from Bunkie and down south from when he was down there in training...a bunch of "the guys" are feeding me peanut butter sandwiches at age two!!!

The e-mail address in the last issue was incorrect. It should be Dutchess11@earthlink.net

— Mary Ann

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

I am looking for anyone who served with and knew my uncle, Captain William P. Thompson (from Kentucky), of the 84th Infantry Division, 335th Regiment Co. E. I was told that he became company commander after Captain Dick Von Schiltz (a West Point grad) was either captured or wounded. Captain William P. Thompson is mentioned by name in a book published in 1958 by W. Ray Loomis called "Fighting Firsts."

— Tommy Thompson, 645 Ellen Dr, Cincinnati, OH 45255; phone: 513-753-3331; E-Mail: tommyneal@peoplepc.com

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Where are they now?

My grandfather, Hugh H. Trussell, was a radio man in Headquarters Company 3-335 of the 84th Infantry Division. I would very much like to hear from anyone who knew him and could supply me with any information. Thank you very much.

— Nick Osmundson, 10674 Mountain Laurel Way, Union KY 41091; E-mail: Osmundson2@aol.com

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

There is a message on the K-335 message board from Noel Rabbetts seeking information from anyone who may remember his father, Captain Bertram (Dick) Rabbetts, of the British Royal Engineers who was

attached to the Railsplitters from the Rhine crossing at Wessel and on to Magdeburg. Captain Rabbetts is still living and will celebrate his 93rd birthday in October.

If anyone remembers him please respond via the message board or e-mail Noel Rabbetts: URL: <http://members5.boardhost.com/K335INF84THDIV/msg/1150904304.html>. Noel's e-mail address: noekab2002@yahoo.com

— Allen Howerton

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Ralph C. Levenson was a 2nd Lt in B-333 and was wounded on April 17, 1945, during a night patrol on the Elbe River. Since he trained for Artillery he could have been on patrol with forward observers. He came over from Ft. Meade, Maryland, in early January and following a hospital stay returned to serve in the occupation near Mannheim until early 1946.

If anyone remembers my father or his service I would be so appreciative to hear from them. Thank you.

— Ellen Levenson Ponte, PO Box 2324, Carlsbad, CA 92018; phone: 760-729-4547

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

I am looking for information on my great uncle, William F. Montgomery, who was in D company 334. He was KIA December 3, 1944. I would like very much to hear from any Railsplitter who can give me any information on him.

— Seth A. Montgomery, 275 Montgomery Lane, Duncansville/PA 16635

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

I am writing in regards to my grandfather, William Pershing Thompson. He was the captain of Company E, 335 Regiment in the 84th Infantry during WWII. He was killed shortly after returning to his home in Carrollton, KY, in January of 1946. I am desperately seeking to find someone from E-335 who was in the war with him. Any kind of personal experiences someone may have had with him would help me tremendously to fill in the voids. Lastly, let me say my deepest respect and appreciation goes out to all of you who have put your life on the line for this country.

If you can be of help to me my address is:

Amy T. Sevigny, 109 Fox Rim Trail,

Mt. Sterling, KY 40353; phone: 859-585-0342 or 859-274-5754

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

My late father, James L. Dawson, was a Railsplitter serving as an anti-tank gun crewman with HQ2-333. For the past four years I have been researching his WWII military service and have come in contact with three men who served in Headquarters Company.

One of the veterans is Carlo J. Govemale who co-authored the 2nd Battalion History. Sometime ago he sent me an old photo of Capt James E. Grantham along with his thoughts



Capt. James E. Grantham
Co. E-333 – KIA 1-10-45

about what a fine person and good officer he was and the story of his death in Belgium. He also mentions Sgt. Bell, whom he also held in high regard. The photo of Capt. James E. Grantham (E-333) who was killed in action January 10, 1945, was given to me by Carlo Govemale. I would like to locate the Grantham family to send them this picture and pass along CJ's kind words about their fallen soldier. I know only that he entered the service from Rocky Mount, NC. If anyone has information regarding Capt. Grantham please contact me.

— Beth Dawson, 1705 Buccaneer Dr. #407, Johnson City, TN 37604; E-mail: bogsage73@aol.com

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Larry C. Randen would like to hear from any Railsplitter who knew Harold Randen, HQ Co. 2nd BN 334th Regiment. He may be reached at Rosemont, MN; phone: 651-332-4968.

UNIT REPORTS

K-335

Allan Howerton

Thanks to the company message board, we recently corresponded with Gary Schneider about a lost Railsplitter, Henry J. Flynn, of Kingston, PA, who was among the first group of replacements to join the company after the heavy losses at Lindern. Gary describes him as "a colorful guy who passed away two years ago on Christmas day in his sleep after celebrating with his three daughters, his son-in-law and me."

Flynn was wounded on January 3, the first day of the counteroffensive to take back the Bulge. He returned to duty after the Roer River crossing in late February 1945 and served during the rest of the war.

Unfortunately, with our ranks almost kaput, we located no other lost Company K men recently. However, the message board continues to attract visitors interested in the Railsplitters generally. For example, we are assisting a writer. Tommy Thompson, who is working on a book about his uncle, Captain William P. Thompson, who commanded Company E-335 throughout most of the war and died tragically shortly after returning home. It is a sad and complex story and we have been able to help in locating some useful information sources.

The board also had a recent posting by Ronald Smith asking about his father, Elton C. Smith, who is still living at 85. He rarely spoke of the war, but recently, with most of his memory gone, began to talk about training riflemen in Company K at Claiborne, the transport to England, the Bulge, etc., in terms paralleling K-335's operations. But he is not in my company database and his name is in the A-335 section of the division roster. He was wounded during Roer-to-Rhine operations and did not return to duty. I would appreciate hearing from anyone who remembers Elton Smith in relation to service in A-335 or his connection, if any, with Company K.

If you would like to check the board occasionally it is on the Internet at:

<http://members5.boardhost.com/K335INF84THDIV/>

G-333

John Meyer

Just as we were getting ready to go to our Nashville reunion I had a letter from Gil Gouveia and learned that he was unable to attend. Gil was in the hospital due to new medication that made him dizzy causing a fall. He apparently passed out and hit the floor face first. His injuries included a broken nose and other facial scrapes and bruises. After the fall and with new medication the doctor would not let him travel or lift anything for 2 weeks. I trust he is feeling better and our group certainly missed him.

Our Reunion was wonderful. The Gaylord Hotel and its environs were amazing. Its immense size was at times overwhelming. There were long walks and I can't tell you how many times people got lost just trying to get back to their rooms. It felt as though we walked miles each day. The Grand Ol' Opry show was excellent and we enjoyed our nighttime cruise.

I wish to congratulate Tessa and T.O. Hester for an outstanding Reunion. It ranks right up there as one of the best Railsplitter Reunions.

As for the number of attendees, I am not positive of the count. I am sure, however, that Forrest and Lila will give a run-down of the event in the November (now January) newsletter.

It was quite a surprise to find that only 5 members of Company G were able to attend. It is one of our lowest counts at any reunion.

Wayne Felton, son of Captain George Felton, and his wife Caroline, came for the first time. He wanted to learn more about his Dad's time in WWII and the men he served with.

Lastly my good friend, Joe Hennigan and his wife Margie, joined our group as guests. They enjoyed their time down in Nashville. I am lucky to have such a good friend for he drove Billie and me to Nashville and back.

That's about it for now. I hope that all is well and this reports finds everyone in good spirits.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

M-333

Paul Howerter

Writing this column concerning M Company fellows, has its ups and downs at the present time. M Company was scheduled to have at least five fellows at our reunion, but many times things do not work out as planned.

Glenn Bauer from Arkansas was going to be there but several weeks before the reunion his wife wrote that he had passed away and she would not attend although her daughter lives near Nashville. Glen was buried in Brinkley, AR on July 28.

We were also counting on seeing Tom Hughes from Boston, NY. However, he had problems with his heart valve and the doctor won't even let him play golf; this I am sure is difficult for Tom. Russ Dahl, one of our faithful, had a list of physical problems that turned up that are too long to list. He is now back home after being in the hospital and nursing home and doing considerably better.

Glenn and Bev Harris and Frieda and I kept hobbling around the hotel trying to hold the M Company CP down. We both had our physical problems, but kept going. That's how the arrangements and planning go sometimes. It is no use trying to fight it, that's life.

A letter from Walter Kidder states, "I am quite busy all of the time, taking care of my wife. I am having an operation on one of my eyes Dec. 20, '05, to get the blood out of it, so will be laid up for awhile." George Baer stated he will be 84 on September 4. He will be going to Lebanon Valley Hospital to be checked out for breathing problems. Otherwise is in good shape. He will again be starting with the Senior Olympics—archery. His wife also participates in the Senior Olympics in volleyball, but is now going to have a knee replacement.

Vincent Anderson wrote, "A few lines to let you know my traveling days are over, sorry to say. After a series of hospitals and rehab, they seem to have me on the mend slowly but surely, I hope. I hope my writing will improve and someday will give you the whole story. Stay well."

More news coming but that's it for now. God bless you all.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

(Unit Reports cont. on pg. 15)

MOVING?
LET US KNOW AT LEAST
SIX WEEKS IN ADVANCE!

**Are your dues paid?
Really? Better check.**

UNIT REPORTS

C-334

Jim Aldrich

Hope all our C Company friends had a good 4th of July, Halloween night and plenty to eat for Thanksgiving. The members voted to change the publication date of the *Railsplitter* to January which conflicts with my early January newsletter. I will get my letter out sometime in February.

The facilities at the reunion in Nashville were very nice but the place was so large it was hard on us old folks walking to everything. David Jackson came by for the Memorial Service. It was his first time at a reunion.

Jane & Vernon Bishop are moving into a senior assisted living place. Jim Catena is still having trouble with his knees and left leg. Helen has finished radiation treatment and is doing fine.

Jo Long got some new hearing aids so can now hear what people are saying about her. Don Cobb's sister passed away this fall. Don is doing okay but Hilda still has her health problem.

Ruth & Ted Coy celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 30 with a big party. Ruth is still having trouble with her legs. Shirley McKenney has written a couple of times since she hosted the company reunion. She said that she would be happy to host another one. We enjoyed the last one so much we may be knocking on her door again sometime.

Jim Jennings sent me some material that the mail clerk, Eugene Peckham, had given him right after the war. The material lists the platoon each man was in and also where those who left the company were sent. Tex Simpson is still working to get a museum for the B-36 he helped rebuild. Their daughter is doing okay after having cancer treatment. Kermy Oftedahl's wife, Bertha passed away last May. They had attended several company reunions including our first one. Jim & Deloris Corn have been to Florida and Pigeon Forge this fall. Larry Jones has had a spell with shingles but they plan on seeing us in April.

Lou and Lois Melendez are busy getting ready to host the company reunion in Salt Lake City on April 27-

29, 2007. We will have it at the Country Inn & Suites, the same place we had it in 2000. It is located at 3422 S. Decker Dr., just off West IH 215 at the 3500 So. Exit. Call 801-908-0311 for reservations by April 15 to get our rates. Hope to see you all there.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

EASY 333

"The Foot"

Interview with "Tommy" Thomason, G 335:

We were approaching the Rhine River having come through Krefeld. Close to the river we found some tunnels. They were occupied by about 20 plus Germans. One of our men got on top to throw grenades down the air shaft which flushed out 20 krauts. These guys surrendered. I was ordered to bring them back about a mile to a cottage with a picket fence. I had my M1 with 8 rounds and 3 hand grenades. I got them in a good formation to wait for the Ms to pick them up.

After the pick-up I went back to the river and was told to dig in there and to keep anyone from coming over the bridge. Before nightfall I saw the Germans dug in on the other side. I

didn't fire because I didn't want to draw fire to our side, but they fired a mortar round which whistled by me. It landed 25 yards behind me. I thought, "Oh, oh," I know what's coming." The next one was 25 yards to my front. I was bracketed! I could just kneel and pray. Luckily the next one was a little short, but covered me with dirt. The concussion was bad, but I wasn't hurt. I later measured the short at six yards. Later after dark I could hear and feel gravel coming down on me. They were up there wiring the bridge preparing to blow it. I radioed it in. After some disbelief at CP, they called me in. Before long an explosion proved I was right, the bridge went. Crossing at Wessel, we went to Munster to help the 17th Glider airborne which had a bad landing into the trees.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

C-334

Shirley Jackson McKiimey

What a wonderful 4 days we spent with these WWII heroes. They had a grand time and I had a grander time watching them, listening to their stories, looking at their pictures, laughing, tearing up, and most of all just hugging them.

Everything was perfect! We toured
(Continued on next page)



REUNION WRAP-UP: Woodrow Bettis Family



REUNION WRAP-UP: Bill Halliday and Family

UNIT REPORTS

(Continued from page 16)

the Governor's Mansion, the Little Rock Air Force Base and the Clinton Library. Everyone treated them as royalty (as it should be).

Our family hosted them to a party after the Saturday night banquet. The reception area was decorated with a framed picture of each of them while in uniform and Railsplitter GI teddy bears (collars, ties, caps, all with their logo.)

My musically talented granddaughter and her dad were dressed in GI attire, granddaughter as a cute little WAC and her dad as a GI sang WWII songs with the favorite being "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy of Company C!"

Afterward the men were introduced to "Mail Call" again as my other granddaughter's second grade class had written them each a letter. There were tears of gratitude on both our parts.

At the end of the party a guest at the hotel came up and asked me if he could say a word to the guys. He had been watching from a distance. He explained that he wanted to thank each of them personally because he had

been deployed in the same area these men had fought in. He expressed the gratitude the people had shown him for what "THESE MEN" had done. He reaped the blessing of thanks that was theirs and wanted to convey this in person to each of them.

These guys went home with warm memories of Little Rock and I have added even warmer memories in my heart of "my" guys. My dad would be so proud to see us all together. And in my heart I know he did! What a wonderful time was had by all at this Reunion.

Those attending were Jim & Barbara Aldrich; Jim & Delores Corn; Ted & Ruth Coy; George Guerra, grandchildren Jorge, Tonya & Gracie

Reyna; Roy & Wilma Huckleby, son Bob Huckleby; Terry & Dorothy Lively, daughter of Capt. Jackson; Robert & Wanda Jackson, son of Capt. Jackson; Lou & Lois Melendez; Robert & Eileen Oates; Earl & Marilyn Radtke, son of Stephen; Paul & Winona Richardson; Joe & Billy Simpson, daughter Barbara Landers, Bob Warnock; and Arkansas visitors Woodrow Bettis of K-333, Bill Tyra of G-335, Brick Bradford of H-334 and his son.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

L-333

Dan McCullen

I haven't seen the head count of the other companies, but I believe Company L probably had more in attendance than any other company.

Paul and Audrey Ferdinandsen had planned to come but Audrey developed a severe dental problem and they had to cancel.

John Guerrey was late getting there as his dad was posthumously inducted into the Sewanee Sports Hall of Fame. Beth and I enjoyed Sunday morning breakfast with John and his wife. John, incidentally, is also double 40, which means he was just 18 when he was leading our platoon in combat in 1944. This is an amazing feat itself.

I did not get to see Vince Logiudice as he didn't get in our hotel and had to stay across the way so we never did get together.

John and Marie Pavlovich were planning to come, but John developed more heart problems and they had to cancel.

Carl Schmadeke came all the way from Oregon and his group were going back to Nebraska for a couple of weeks as that was his old home place.

Greg Tarpinian called before the meeting to advise that he has just undergone surgery and couldn't travel for a couple of weeks.

Ken Zander and family made it all the way from Montana even though he has to carry an oxygen tank with him.

The meeting was enjoyed by all in attendance but I was a little put out with the facilities because it was so large. It seemed that every time I got off the elevator I was about a mile from my room. At my age my back doesn't lend well to standing or walking.

I hope that we have another good crowd in Springfield next year.



BUY THAT INVASION BOND!

MAIL CALL



Sure wish I could join you all at the next reunion, but I am going on 93 and am a little afraid to get that far from home. I am feeling good, walk an hour every morning except Sunday, and I have to thank the Lord for keeping me in good shape. Sure hope this finds you all well and I want to thank you for keeping the *'Splitter* as newsy as it has always been.

— Vern Kellog (HQ 2-333)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

I was General Boiling's Aide from Camp Claiborne until I took over L-334 at the end of the war. I was later assigned as Div Provost Marshall when its headquarters was in Weinheim and brought MPs home for deactivation.

I love to receive the *Railsplitter* but hate to see the "TAPS" section growing longer with each issue. If any *Railsplitter* passes through Las Vegas I would appreciate a call. I've been here 30 years and know most of the points of interest.

I am as you should be, proud to be a "Railsplitter"!

— Col-USA-Ret Joe Walker, 1639 Commanche Dr, Las Vegas, NV 89109
A/C 702-731-5555

Need a Copy of Your DD-214?

We still get requests for information on how to obtain a copy of a veteran's records. The National Personal Records Center has provided a Website for veterans to gain access to their DD-214 on-line...

<http://vetrecs.archives.gov>

Check it out if you need a copy of your records. The new Website is expected to provide a better service to the requests received at the NPRC.

DEADLINE
for the June 2007 issue of
"The *Railsplitter*"
is May 1, 2007

We Did It!

Scottie Ooton

A big thank you from our 84th Society to the individual *Railsplitters* for their donations to place a memorial block in the Illinois WWII Memorial in Springfield, IL. More than the \$5000.00 needed was donated and the Illinois Memorial Association sent the balance of \$1050.00 to Division Headquarters

As most of you know that is where our Division has its roots and where our memorabilia is displayed in the Army museum. It is also the home of our most famous *Railsplitter*, President Lincoln.

The following *Railsplitters* made donations:

William Halliday (CN335), Carlos Shook (SV334), August Schmidt (E333), Sylvan Van Gobes (H333), Paul Gibbs (C335), Scottie Ooton (H333), Don Lee (H325FA), James Kurtzweil (F 334), John O'Leary (E333), Eugene Solfelt (SV 333), Robert Huss (SV 335), Joseph Lippi (HQ 334), Charles McCulla (L333), William Wiles (HQ 2-335), George Lucht (K333), Marcel Larievere (K 333), John Walker (G335), William Seckfort (HQ 1-335), Donald Dobkin (HQ 334), George Pichel (E335), Donald Edwards (E 335), Charles Cleary in memory of his father (CN 334), R. J. Strickler in memory of Clyde Strickler (C333), Nanci Jones in memory of her husband, Jodi (H333) Lawrence Cartoleno in memory of his father, Lawrence (L333), Mary Birkenbach in memory of her husband, Clemence (A333), Johnnie Johnson in memory of Jerry Krizka (HQ 1-334), Dan McKavenaugh in memory of his uncle, Charles A Strudeman (A333).

Life Members:
Your \$9.00 Annual
Assessment sfor
2004, 2005, 2006
Are PAST DUE.

Your 2007
Assessment is Due.

The Combat Infantryman Badge

The Combat Badge was established to recognize the U.S. Army Infantryman in 1943, by the War Department. It was originally called the "fighter badge." Secretary of War, Henry Stinson, said, "It is high time we recognize in a personal way the skill and heroism of the American Infantryman." The Combat Infantryman Badge was designed to enhance morale and prestige of those doing 70% of the fighting.

The Combat Infantryman Badge has been available to infantrymen in four U.S. major wars and nine other military actions. To qualify you must have a military occupation specialty (MOS) of infantry and assigned to Airborne, Ranger, and Special Forces or Infantry unit. A recipient must be personally present and under hostile fire while serving in an assigned infantry or Special Forces unit that was actively engaged in ground combat battle with the enemy.

COMBAT INFANTRYMEN'S ASSOCIATION

YOU EARNED IT!

Why not be part of the elite;
join the organization for
COMBAT INFANTRYMEN!



Membership requirements: The applicant must have been awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge as certified to by official notation on the applicant's DD-214, Official Army Orders, or other official documents. Applicant must attach a copy of such documentation to this Enlistment (Membership) Application. Dues are \$20.00 for two years or \$75.00 for a life membership. We do not have a one- (1) year membership.

For more information and membership application, please visit our Website at:

www.cibassoc.com or contact:

Daniel R. Sankoff, Major, C.I.A.
National Membership Officer
236 Fanby Road
Lehigh Acres, FL 33936-7531
E-mail: silverfoxx236@aol.com

This and That

Lila

I am very happy to see 2006 come to an end. It has been a bit of a nightmare. As many of you know I went into the hospital on May 16 to have a knee replacement; no problem, in and out in 4 days. You bet. On the 18th I developed a blood clot in my leg and more surgery. From there on things went down hill. I don't remember much of the next couple weeks. I finally went home on 15/June. To home nursing and home physical therapy. The clot cut off the circulation to the nerves in my foot and now 6 months later I still have a great deal of pain and they say it may or may not get better. I did miss seeing you all at the reunion. Carolyn Wade and I in our daily e-mails spent most of the time feeling sorry for ourselves. I want to thank you for your cards, e-mails and phone calls. It is nice to be missed.

Upon reading the minutes I was pleased to see that Forrest was finally recognized for all his hard work. According to the criteria established, candidates are few and far between. I hope you don't lower the require-

ments as it would lose its honor as so many of the awards have.

It is too bad more thought wasn't given to changing the publication dates. It is pretty obvious that those making the decision have little concept of what is involved. There are notices of the deadline in each issue. This time you even got 2 months extra but the deadline came and went and we are still waiting for some of the material that must be included. We try to accommodate everyone and all we ask is a little consideration.

I had trouble reading some of the registration cards so don't complain if you and your families names are spelled wrong. I run across these statistics about the time I was working on them:

Thirty-eight million illegibly addressed letters cost the US Post Service \$4 million in one year. The Los Angeles post office employs 12 full-time handwriting experts to decipher illegibly written addresses. (I could use one of them).

A belated Merry Christmas.

A POEM

*The mournful tone of taps...
Sorry...so sorry I can't play.
Those of the 84th that have passed,
Their memories will surely last.
Served their country best they could.
Knowing them, I knew they would.
Gone from the earth, that they are,
We know they will look at us from their star.
So we say...Hear Hear!
And raise our drink in good cheer.
For our vision of them is very clear.*

— ARTHUR COZEWITH (F-333)

Merchandise

Please note the lack of merchandise. I have a few patches and 6 red caps. I will not be reordering as there is very little demand. Call 605-334-8787 for information.

THE RAILSPLITTER



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND ORDER FORM

The Railsplitter Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 827 • Sioux Falls, SD 57101-0827 • (605) 334-8787

☐ Enclosed please find \$15.00 for my annual dues or \$69.00 for lifetime membership.
Life Members are assessed \$9.00

Name _____ Spouse _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____ My 84th Unit was: Co. _____

☐ New Membership ☐ Renewed

MAIL ORDER PRICES...POSTAGE INCLUDED

☐ Please ship the items indicated below. Enclosed is my check or money order in amount of \$ _____
Quantity...

_____ Railsplitter Patches\$ 2.50

_____ RED Cap.....\$12.00

TOTAL

Change of Address

Name _____

Unit _____

Address _____

Alternate Address _____

Phone _____

☐ Address above is year-round residence

☐ Address above is from _____
to _____

☐ Alternate address is from _____
to _____

SEND ISSUES:

INDICATE...

STATE

June

January

Coming Events

State/Unit

C-334

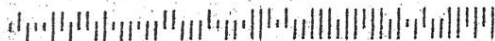
April 27-28-29, 2007
Country Inn & Suites
3422 S. Decker Dr., Salt Lake City, UT
Phone: 801-908-0311

OREGON

May 2-4, 2007
Surfsand Resort
Cannon Beach, Oregon
Contact: Brownlee Bush @ 503-842-2795

IVAN BEAM NORTHEAST CHAPTER

June 6-8, 2007
Friar Tuck Resort, Catskill, NY
Phone: 800-832-7600
Contact: Seymour Kuppersmith
37 Cardinal Dr., Roslyn, NY 11576
Phone: 516-626-1645



2007

RAILSPLITTERS 62ND ANNUAL REUNION

August 24, 25, 26, 2007
Hilton Springfield – Springfield, Illinois
Contact: Troy Mallory
2229 Jersey St., Quincy, IL 62301
Phone: 217-223-9062

2008

Springfield-Branson, Missouri

Are your Dues Paid?

**Annual Dues:
\$15/year**

**Life Member
Assessment:
\$9/year**

THE
RAILSPLITTER

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT # 7380
SIOUX FALLS, SD
57101

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